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| 10/607,975 | 06/30/2003 | Carol L. Erdman | 53394.000711 | 6951 |

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Christopher C. Campbell, Esquire
Hunton & Williams
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006-1109

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| EXAMINER |
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BOGART, MICHAEL G

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3761

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/607,975

Applicant(s)

ERDMAN, CAROL L.

Examiner

Michael G. Bogart

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-9 and 11-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 27-53 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-9, 11-26 and 54-58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the elastic portion" in line 1. It is not clear which (first, second, side) elastic portion this limitation refers to.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

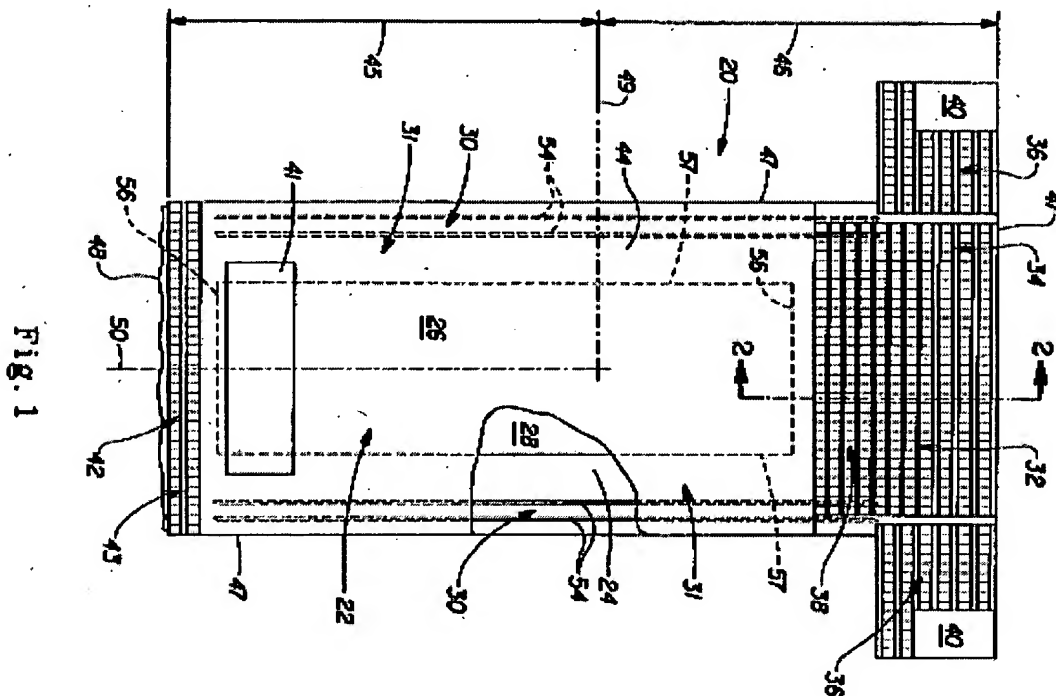
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 5-9, 20-26 and 54-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roe *et al.* (US 5,554,143 A; hereinafter "Roe").

With respect to claim 5, Roe discloses an absorbent article (20), as shown in figure 1, having a front portion (42, 43), a back portion (32) and two side portions (30, 31). The article (20) further comprises a main chassis (22), an absorbent portion (28), a first front elastic portion (42, 2042), a second rear elastic portion (34, 36) and a side elastic portion (42, 45, 54)(34, 36, 46,

54) associated with each. The front and rear elastic portions (34, 36, 42, 2042) each have a larger area than either of the side elastic portions (54), as shown in figure 1, infra.



With respect to claims 6-9, the elastic portion (34, 36) has a first region (34) that overlaps the main chassis (22) and a second region (36), which does not overlap the main chassis (22), as shown in figure 1, supra. The first region (34) can be defined so as to have an area (e.g., a small sub-portion of panel (34)) that is less than 10 percent of a total area of the elastic portion (34, 36). The second region (36) can be defined to be substantially equal to the total area of the elastic portion (34, 36).

With respect to claim 20, the first and second elastic portions (42, 34, 36) can be defined to be triangular in shape (e.g., a triangular subcomponent can be defined in the elastic component).

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With respect to the claim 21, the first elastic portion (34, 36) and the second elastic portion (42) have different areas, as shown in figure 1A.

With respect to claim 22, the first and second elastic portions (34, 36, 42) can be defined to be circular or oval in shape (e.g., a circular subcomponent can be defined in the elastic component).

With respect to claim 23, the first and second elastic portions (34, 36, 42) can be defined to be diamond shaped (e.g., a diamond-shaped subcomponent can be defined in the elastic component).

With respect to claim 24, the first and second elastic portions (34, 36, 42) are rectangular, as shown in figure 1, supra.

With respect to claim 25, the article is a diaper, as disclosed in column 2, line 28.

With respect to claim 26, the article is a pant, as disclosed in column 2, lines 28-29.

With respect to claim 54, Roe discloses a first carrier layer (26) associated with the elastic portions (34, 36, 42) as part of the SELF web.

With respect to claim 55, the longitudinal dimension of the center portion (34) defines a first distance, and the longitudinal dimension of each of the two end portions (36) defines a second distance. The first distance is less than twice the second distance, as shown in figure 1.

With respect to claim 56, the lateral dimension of the center portion (34) defines a third distance, and the lateral dimension of each of the two end portions (36) defines a fourth distance. The third distance is greater than the fourth distance as shown in fig. 1.

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With respect to claim 57, the center portion (34) is positioned between the two end portions (36), and has a lateral dimension that is greater than twice the lateral dimension of each of the two end portions (36) as shown in figure 1.

Regarding claim 58, Roe teaches a second carrier layer (24) opposite the first carrier layer (26).

Claims 5-9, 11-15 and 20-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Turi *et al.* (US 6,413,249 B1; hereinafter "Turi").

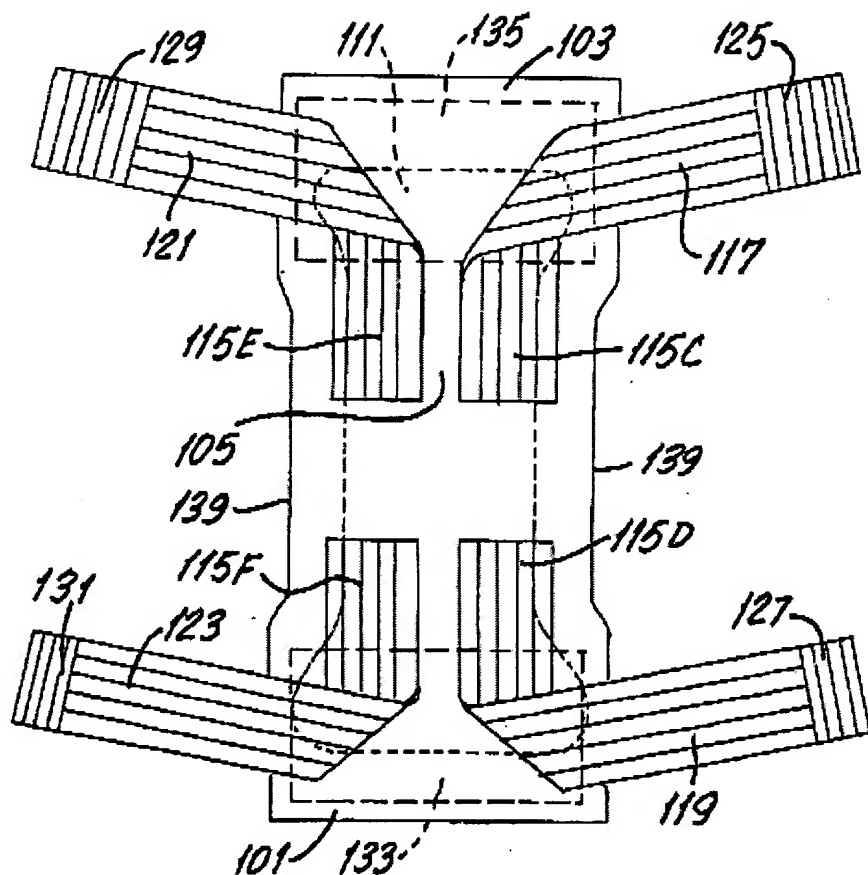
With respect to claim 5, Turi discloses and absorbent article (100), that comprises a first elastic portion (115C, 115E) and a second elastic portion (115D, 115F) as shown in figure 2A, *infra*. The first and second elastic portions (115C, 115, D, 115E, 115F) can be defined to have larger areas than either of the side portions (121, 117) having a front portion, a back portion, and two side portions (121, 117). The article (100) further comprises a main chassis (103) an absorbent portion, and elastic portion (115). The elastic portion (115) has a larger area in the front portion than it does in the side portions (121, 117).

With respect to claims 6-9, the elastic portions (115) have a first region (115A, 115B) that overlaps the main chassis (103), and a second region (121) that does not overlap the main chassis (103). The first region (115A, 115B) can be defined to have an area that is less than ten percent of a total area of the elastic portion (115). The second region (121) can be defined to be substantially equal to the total area of the elastic portion (115).

With respect to claim 11, the front elastic portion (115C, 115E) corresponds to the front portion of the article (100), and the back portion (115D, 115F) corresponds to the back portion of

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the article (100). The article (100) further comprises first side elastic portions (121, 117) and second side elastic portions (123, 119).

**FIG. 2A**

With respect to claim 12, the front elastic portion (115C, 115E) has a depth that is greater than the depth of the first elastic side portions (121, 117), as shown in figure 2A.

With respect to claim 13, the back elastic portion (115D, 115F), has a depth greater than the depth of the second side portions (123, 119), as shown in figure 2A.

With respect to claim 14, the depth of the front elastic portion (115C, 115E) is substantially equal to the depth of the back elastic portion (115D, 115F), as shown in figure 2A.

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With respect to claim 15, the back elastic portion (115D, 115F) has depth greater than the depth of the second side elastic portions as shown in figure 2A.

With respect to claim 20, the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape, as shown in figure 10.

With respect to claim 21, the first and second elastic portions can be defined to be circular or oval in shape.

With respect to claim 22, the first and second elastic portions can be defined to be circular or oval in shape.

With respect to claim 23, the first and second elastic portions can be defined to be diamond shaped.

With respect to claim 24, the first and second elastic portions can be defined to be rectangular, as shown in figure 2A.

With respect to claim 25, the article (100) is a diaper, as disclosed in column 3, line 7.

With respect to claim 26, the article (100) is a pant, as disclosed in column 1, line 9.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10 July 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants assert that Roe does not teach separate first front and second rear elastic portions. This argument is not persuasive because Roe teaches these elements as being separate (34, 36, 42) in fig. 1, supra. Each of elastic elements (34, 36) and (42) have a greater surface area than the side elastics (54).

Applicants assert that Turi does not teach that the front and/or rear portions of the elastic (115) strips are any longer than the side portions. Referring to figure 2A, supra, the front (121) and rear (123) portions of the elastic member are interpreted as including while the side elastic portion (115E, 115F) is interpreted as being the portion that is attached along its length to the chassis. It is noted that the claims must be given their broadest reasonable interpretation. MPEP § 2111.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Bogart whose telephone number is (571) 272-4933.

In the event the examiner is not available, the Examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva may be reached at phone number (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization


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where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for formal communications.

For informal communications, the direct fax to the Examiner is (571) 273-4933.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Michael Bogart
22 September 2006

TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER

